

N E W S L E T T E R
1 J U L Y 2 0 1 0

ST CLAIR SCHOOL

CAPABLE, CARING, CONFIDENT, CHILDREN CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITY

What's Happening?

July

Reports posted home - 2 July

Last day of Term 2 - 2 July

First day of Term 3 - 19 July

Middles Swimming - 19-21st July

Middles Swimming - 26-27th July

Parent Interviews - 27, 28, 29 July. (2pm closure 27/28 July)

August

PTA Meeting - 5 August

PTA Family Ski Weekend - 7 / 8 August

BoT Meeting - 7pm, 4 August

X Welcome - Welcome - Welcome *X*

We warmly welcome Henry Riepl, Taylor Williams, Ella Lawson, Tyler Henderson and Laura Henderson to our school. We trust you all settle in quickly and have a very happy time with us.

A FEW MORE THOUGHTS ABOUT NATIONAL STANDARDS

Thank you to the parents who attended the evening seminar on the new National Standards and their impact on our reporting process. Following the meeting, the following points are repeated for all parents:

- National Standards attempt to measure children at a set point in time and do not take account of individual rates of maturation and variability of learning rates
- The Ministry of Education has stated that children 'will achieve at different levels and ... different rates; some children will be working well beyond their peers, and others will be working well below'

- National Standards are not a clear benchmark that can be measured with precision. They are broad descriptions of generalised learning, best thought of as bands that children are 'progressing towards', 'working within' or 'working beyond'
- Ministry of Education officials describe National Standards as aspirational, and their own estimates suggest that only 30% to 60% of children can be expected to achieve the standard (depending on the level and type)
- Teachers use multiple assessments to make an 'overall judgement' of learning in relation to the National Standards
- National Standards are not based on an average level of achievement or on population norms
- In July, most children will still be working towards the next National Standard, and most have 6 months of learning ahead before they have completed a full year of learning
- Our school remains committed to seeing every child achieve as fully as possible
- National Standards sound a simple and easy concept but is in fact, far more complex
- It is very likely that our school's National Standards report will be modified for the end-of-year reporting cycle.

Our School Values Kindness, Caring & Manners

Our next focus will be:

~ Caring ~

Caring for our own belongings as well as the property of others makes the best of everyone's resources.

Our next focus will be:

~ Manners ~

The use of common courtesies and everyday manners helps everyone to relate more happily, and feel valued and respected.

During Term 1, children from our Year 5 Living and Giving Week, decided that they would hold an appeal in support of Haiti. The appeal was delayed until this stage of the year in recognition that the attention of the world's media would slip onto another topic but the issues for those involved would remain unchanged. The week has been a great success and raised over \$700 for this worthy cause. Our thanks to the children who developed this idea and to all families for their generous support.

Please check the unclaimed clothing collection at the base of the Room 1 staircase. Unclaimed items will be bagged at the end of the first week of Term 3 and forwarded to various welfare agencies.

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports were mailed home today. These reports contain information about your child's learning over the past 6 months. They also contain broad statements about your child's progress towards meeting the National Standard in reading, writing and mathematics, for their age-group, by the end of the year. National Standards data is reported in compliance with government regulation. Standards are described by the Ministry of Education and it is openly acknowledged by officials that attainment of the standards will vary between 30% and 60%, depending on the age-group and curriculum area.

JULY BREAK

This year's July break commences on Saturday 3 July.

School commences for Term 3 on Monday 19 July.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Kid Station (based at St Clair School)

Quality before/after school care for your child/ren. Casual bookings welcome. Ring Kevin or Carmel on 0274 492 102 or 4559344.

Bluelight Cadbury Disco

12th July Dunedin Central Police Station Gym. Primary aged children \$2.

Tahuna Intermediate Open Night

5 August 7-8.30pm. Enrolments taken on the night.



School Contacts

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